

NESCAUM Permit Modeling Committee Call
September 5, 2013 10am

Attendees:

- Connecticut: Sam Sampieri
- Maine: Kevin Ostrowski, Tom Downs
- Massachusetts: Rich Fields, Glenn Pacheco
- New Hampshire: Dave Healy, Lisa Landry
- New Jersey: Peter Mayes, Greg John
- New York: Margaret Valis, Leon Sedefian
- Rhode Island: Wilfredo Lemus
- Vermont: Dan Riley, Steve Snook
- EPA: Brian Hennessey

Topics

1. State Updates

Connecticut

- Some minor source permit applications, but little other activity
- State designated as attainment for 1-hour SO₂
- Keeping up with updating web pages, modeling procedures, met data
- Updating the modeling guideline (last update in 09) to incorporate PM2.5 and “new” 1hr standards

Maine

- Minor source permit applications
- Trend toward natural gas and biomass fuel switching continuing
- Nat gas infrastructure getting more developed and more facilities switching as a result
- More remote facilities now firing trucked in gas
- Town of Elliott (across river from NH) submitted a 126 petition to EPA asking to look at modeled 1-hr SO₂ standard violations due to the Schiller Station in New Hampshire
 - o Based on Sierra Club modeling, showing max impacts on Maine side as high as ~450 (actual) to 650 (allowable) ug/m³
 - o Petition is public record and Maine is willing to share with interested states
- Maine proposing to revise SIP to remove applicability NSR requirements to allow major modifications without emissions offsets

Massachusetts

- Current work focused on evaluating Mount Tom, Brayton Point, and Salem Harbor power stations
 - o Mount Tom: Sierra Club showed very high impacts through modeling. State asked Mt Tom to model and showed lower impacts below NAAQS, which Sierra Club takes issue with based on modeling assumptions.
 - o Working with folks at Brayton Point to come up with emission limits; also under constraints from existing federal consent decree and installing control systems
- New Addition: Glenn Pacheco

New Hampshire

- Fifteen permit modeling projects so far this year, down from last year
 - o Toxics analysis
 - o Conversions to natural gas and biomass
- Schiller Power Station
 - o Title 5 renewal going out to public comment
 - o Currently firing only Unit #5 (wood fired) but permit allows coal burning
 - o Elliott, Maine letter's modeling was based on the previous submittal
- Submitted comments on user guide for "EChem" tool
- Processed and posted 2012 met data
 - o Wil (RI) will share modeling guidelines with treatment for 1 minute data

New Jersey

- EPA designated NJ as attainment for PM2.5 (FR notice published on Sept 4)
- Big projects:
 - o Landfill had been partially dormant, but accepted wallboard from Sandy, now finding H2S
 - 6 monitors set up
 - Localized concentrations observed at up to 800 ppb
 - o Adding thermal oxidizer and monitoring SO2 at a local school
- NG combustion turbine projects, plus combined heat and power projects at hospitals

New York

- Awaiting PM2.5 attainment designation
- Rules will need to change once attainment designation triggered
- Looks like they will be able to hire a meteorologist (entry level)

Rhode Island

- Central Landfill
 - o Installing oxidizer and flares
- Protocol review
- Few minor source applications
- Big submission:
 - o Electric Boat constructing paint cell facility, and training facility

Vermont

- Evaluating characteristic plain vs valley ASOS sites: significant LOW bias in annual average when using plain met in a valley location – about half what the annual average should be
- Replacement for central heat plant at Waterbury facility

2. EPA updates

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- Oklahoma and Alaska have added information to the database
- Q: Barriers to contribute to the dB?
 - o Facilities may not want to provide the data
 - o San Joaquin Valley has put in a lot of data

- Wil says industries he has approached about it in RI just aren't interested in doing it
- Using CEM data ... can the CEM data get us what we're looking for?
- **This Committee will evaluate the possibility of increased contributions from NESCAUM states.**
First step will be to speak to state CEM data experts to determine whether the appropriate data can be retrieved

3. Training opportunities at 2014 PMC Meeting
 - Interest in SCICHEM/SCIPUFF hands on training
 - Other suggestions?

Workshop being held in Albany on Sat Data. **Leon will send more information.**

SCICHEM

- Why is SCICHEM/SCIPUFF the preferable one? Why switch?
- CALPUFF doesn't have the right chemistry; SCICHEM does
- For large PM2.5 for secondary formation
- Maybe preliminary
- Talk to George re: whether the agency plans to adopt SCICHEM for more broad implementation

4. Development of PM2.5 secondary formation guidelines (per NYS DEC recommendation and group discussion at June meeting)

Deferred until next meeting, after NYSDEC has had a chance to run the CMAQ model. Dan (VT) will be running CALPUFF for comparison with CMAQ results.